



**Start Fresh:
 How to Thrive
 in 2025**

The old year has passed, and with it, the challenges, struggles, and

victories we faced along the way. A new year is before us, full of new possibilities and opportunities, both imagined and as yet unimagined. What will we make of our lives in the new year?

At the threshold of 2025, as at the beginning of each new day, God offers us the chance to let go of the past, embrace God’s purpose, and create new habits that lead to lasting change, so that we can live as disciples of Jesus Christ in the way God has created and calls us to be.

Our weekly topics will address some ways to thrive in 2025:

- Letting go of what’s holding you back: Releasing mistakes, missed opportunities, failures, and hurt from others to move forward
- Finding your purpose: What is God’s purpose for my life or for this stage of my life? God wants us to do more than just survive.
- Making real change requires establishing new, healthy habits.
- God offers us fresh hope and a fresh start with each new day.

We encourage you to share this series with us every Sunday in January. Join us at 9:30 am for a casual service in Atchley Hall, or at 11:00 am for a traditional service in the Sanctuary. Invite a friend, relative, or neighbor who needs to hear about the fresh start and the new life of hope God offers each of us in Jesus Christ in 2025. Learn more at MonroeUMC.org.

Confirmation Class Coming in 2025

Many lifelong United Methodists have fond memories of their



confirmation class. Sometime during adolescence, they met with a group of their peers, some adult leaders, and their pastor.

When the classes were complete, they then stood before their congregation, where the pastor and others put their hands on them while a blessing was said. Some then received a special lunch or a gift from their church.

Although confirmation is not a sacrament in The United Methodist Church, it is an important marker along our spiritual journeys.

At baptism, we are initiated into the new covenant in Jesus Christ and membership in the Church, Christ’s body in the world. For many, this happens when they are very young.

Confirmation is an opportunity to respond to the grace of God available to us, as acknowledged in baptism, and to promise to live as a person of faith. Confirmation is our

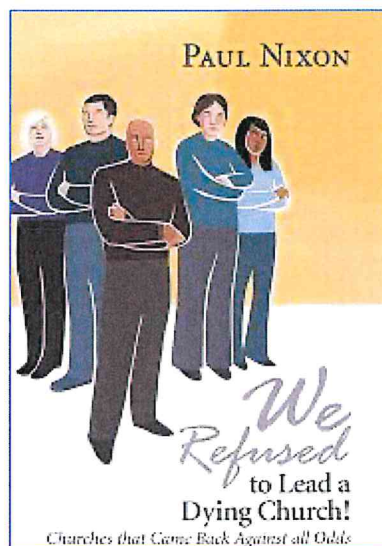
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response of commitment, profession of faith, and rededication.

Monroe UMC invites all youth, ages 12 or seventh grade and up, and their families to consider enrolling in this year's Confirmation Class. The schedule will be built based on our shared availability as much as possible. There will be an informational meeting for youth and parents/guardians on Sunday, January 12, at 12:15 pm in Atchley Hall. We will serve lunch and share information about the class and work on the schedule. Please make reservations with Edna Miller in the Church Office by January 10, 2025, at monroeumc@cinci.rr.com or 513.539.7290.

Interested in God's Future for Monroe UMC?

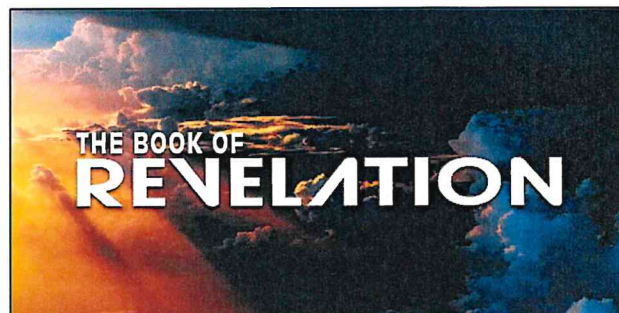
In late 2024, several members of the Church Council read the book *We Refused to Lead a Dying Church: Churches that Came Back against All Odds*, written by UM pastor and consultant Paul Nixon. The book chronicles the choices that 15 different worshipping communities made when faced with the choice of life (through change) or death (through closing).



The readers discussed insights gained and were so inspired, they wanted to extend an invitation to anyone in the congregation to read and discuss the book further with them. We have a very limited supply of books available for loan (see Pastor Jeff). You can purchase your own paperback or eBook at Amazon or your favorite bookseller. (Be careful – Nixon has

another, different book with a similar title: *I Refused to Lead a Dying Church*.)

Then we'll invite all the readers to attend a discussion on Saturday, January 11 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the church. Please contact Edna Miller in the church office (513.539.7290; monroeumc@cinci.rr.com) so we can have enough materials for everyone. We'll process ideas from the book, discuss questions, and listen for God's voice among our sharing.



By Popular Request

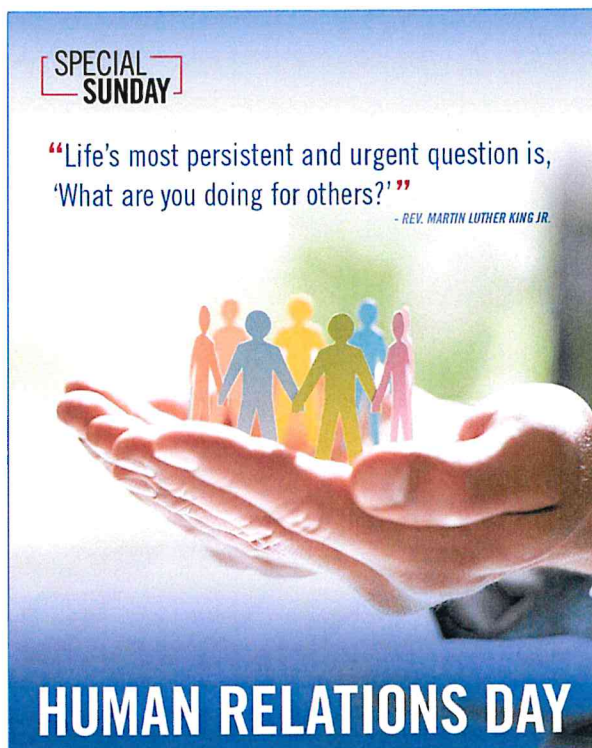
Participants in past Bible studies here at Monroe UMC asked to learn more about what is probably the most puzzling and intimidating book for readers of the Bible: the book of Revelation. You asked for it, you've got it.

Starting on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 1:00-3:00 pm, at Monroe UMC, we will host a study of the book of Revelation. We'll read the text together. We'll seek to understand what it meant to its first readers (including those in the seven churches to which the letter is addressed) and ponder what it might mean for us today. We'll examine some myths (or misunderstandings) about Revelation, strive to interpret the symbols, discover what it tells us about Jesus, and seek how it fits into our lives and our world today.

The class is free for everyone, but we do request that you register with the church office at 513.539.7290 or monroeumc@cinci.rr.com, so we can have enough materials for everyone.

Human Relations Day – January 15, 2025

A woman went to the Better Community Development, Inc. and was transformed into a vessel for Jesus. She had struggled with addiction for her entire life and was able to find recovery and Jesus within the beloved and supportive community at BCD. Now, she works as a faith leader in the community, working with women who have completed the in-patient program and preventing relapse by encouraging spiritual connection.



The Better Community Development, Inc. is a beautiful example of a community listening to the needs and hearts of the people and responding with faith and love. With support from a Human Relations Day grant, the BCD is lifting up those in their community who need the heart of Jesus. This is just one example of how your congregation is impacting the world one person at a time through Special Sunday donations.

Human Relations Day is Sunday, January 15, 2025. Please consider how you might give an additional

The following is a quote from the faith leader taken from a story by Caroline Loftin, contributing writer from Theresa Hoover Memorial Church:

“When you strive to be the best version of you that you can be, you start to embrace who God created you to be because you start to get proud of yourself, and God truly shows he’s proud.”

offering above your regular offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Your giving will transform other lives for Jesus Christ. Mark your offering envelope or check memo for “Human Relations,” or choose “Fund 8413-Special Sundays” when giving online at [MonroeUMC.org/Give](https://www.monroeumc.org/Give). [Adapted from: Article at <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/2024-human-relations-day-sunday-email-1>. Accessed 12/15/2024.]

Thank you for the Love (Gift)



Your staff at Monroe UMC thanks you for the kind Love Gifts you gave us at Christmas! We are humbled by your generous expression of kindness and honored to serve alongside you as we partner in Christ’s

ministry. We look forward to what God will do in and through us in 2025!

In Christ’s love,
Gina Craft, Larry Daniel, Melanie Flower, Cindy Johnson, Mary Johnson, Linda Larkin, Edna Miller, & Pastor Jeff

MONROE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
206 East Avenue, PO Box 310
Monroe, OH 45050

REQUESTED RETURN SERVICE

Mission Statement:

*Shining the light on the hill by connecting with Jesus Christ,
connecting with each other and connecting with the world.*



MONROE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Phone: 513.539.7290

E-mail: monroeumc@cinci.rr.com

Website: www.monroeumc.org

Monroe UMC Staff

Rev. Jeff Motter, Senior Pastor: revjamotter@gmail.com

Edna Miller, Office Manager: monroeumc@cinci.rr.com

Gina Craft, Children's Ministries: gmatcraft@gmail.com

Larry Daniel, Choir Director

Melanie Flower, Organist

Linda Larkin, Nursery Attendant

Arlene Horton, Treasurer

Jerry & Anne Lapham,

Financial Sec'y

MINISTERS: CONGREGATION

OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY-FRIDAY 9:00AM-4:30PM



FACEBOOK: *Monroe United Methodist Church*



C/*MonroeUnitedMethodist*



TWITTER: *@MonroeUMC*





January Birthdays

- 5 – Gina Craft
- 8 – Don Alleman
- 11 – Lois Shay
Don Kobert
- 12 – Sharon Collier
- 19 – Glen Rowlett
- 20 – Pam Routson
- 24 – David Finley
- 25 – Chelsey Sanvee
- 28 – Danny McWhorter, Jr.
- 31 – Elaine Kuth


January Anniversaries

- 14 Joe & Jenny DeBord



February
Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday,
January 22nd



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29		30 Church Office Closed	31 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	1  Church Office Closed	2	3 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	4
5	Holy Communion 12:15pm Confirmation Lunch/Library	6 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	7 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	8 11:30am -12:15pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	9	10 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	11 9:00am -12:00pm Dying Church Discussion/AH
12	4:30pm -8:30pm Emmaus Gathering/AH	13 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	14 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	15 11:30am -12:15pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	16 7:00pm Trustees/Library	17 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	18
19		20 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	21 10:00am Share Group/Parlor 1:00pm Finance Committee/AH	22  11:30am -12:15pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	23	24 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	25
26		27 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	28 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	29 11:30am -12:15pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	30	31 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	1